

THE COLORADO NRCS CONNECTION



655 Parfet Street, Room E200A

Lakewood, CO 80215-5505

P-720-544-2808

F-720-544-2965

www.co.nrcs.usda.gov

Insights & Highlights

by
Allen Green
State Conservationist



As most of you should know, on April 22, we celebrated Earth Day. It was with honor that I represented Colorado NRCS, and a coalition of other agriculture agencies, during a recent celebration at one of our local elementary schools.

Carson Elementary was named the 2005 Earth Day Elementary School of the Year for its award-winning compost program which recycles lunchwaste into worm food. The annual "school of the year award" goes to a school that has incorporated natural resources and environmental issues into their curriculum. It's open to elementary schools in Denver public schools to encourage teachers to plan new Earth Day activities or to publicize their ongoing Earth Day efforts.

Watching the enthusiasm that these primary school students had toward their project and the environment in general was exciting. It made me appreciate that what we do in conservation every day is far more than just assisting farmers and ranchers conserve their resources, but also is for future generations both rural and urban.

I encourage you to appreciate the importance of each and every one of us doing our part to protect and improve the environment. I also challenge you to seek at least some level of enthusiasm for what you do that approaches that which was shown by our Earth Day Elementary School winners.

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Did you know...

In Colorado, 2,897 Earth Team volunteers donated 44,992 hours to conserve natural resources during 2004. Nationally, more than 40,000 Earth Team volunteers donated over 950,000 hours.

We all have a reason to celebrate!

This year NRCS marks its **70th anniversary**. We are the nation's leading agency in conserving natural resources on private lands. Every employee and partner contributes to the agency's many accomplishments. The nation's citizens enjoy productive soils, clean air and water, and open spaces because of our work.

What's New at www.co.nrcs.usda.gov



Program PowerPoint presentations to be downloaded and used by NRCS employees and our partners at workshops, seminars, information sessions, etc. Programs include:

- ✓ 2002 Farm Bill
- ✓ Conservation Initiative Grants (CIG)
- ✓ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- ✓ Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
- ✓ Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
- ✓ Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
- ✓ Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Go to www.co.nrcs.usda.gov and **Click on "News"** from the top menu to access a list of these power point presentations, news releases, publications, and products.



Colorado NRCS Area News and Information. Area 2 has made fact sheets and other relevant news available for their customers to read and download. All Areas are encouraged to use this tool to provide facts and data to the farmers and ranchers you serve.

Go to www.co.nrcs.usda.gov and **Click on "News"** from the top menu, and then **Click on "Colorado Area News"** from the left sidebar menu.



Colorado downloadable graphic maps, including:

- ✓ Area Boundaries
- ✓ Congressional Districts
- ✓ Conservation Districts
- ✓ County Boundaries
- ✓ NRCS Field Offices
- ✓ RC&D Areas
- ✓ Watershed Map

Go to www.co.nrcs.usda.gov and **Click on "News"** from the top menu to see a list of available products and graphics.



A scanned electronic copy of the **Arapahoe County Soil Survey**

Go to www.co.nrcs.usda.gov and **Click on "Soils"** from the right sidebar menu.

Zig Ziglar on

Integrity

President Clinton was elected in 1992 built largely around the phrase, "It's the economy, Stupid!" Today a good campaign slogan would be, "It's integrity, Stupid!"

When I was a youngster in Yazoo City, Mississippi, I worked in a grocery store. One day I overheard a man make a proposal to the owner of the store that sounded wonderfully good to me. As a youngster I couldn't understand why the boss did not immediately accept the offer. When the man left, I asked my boss why he didn't take advantage of that "opportunity." His answer was sobering: "You can't make a good deal with a bad guy."

The person who doesn't believe that character counts has never talked to a wife whose husband has walked out on her, leaving her with small children to raise and no job skills to provide meaningful income. Nor have they talked with a husband whose wife chose to run off with another man. The individual who says character doesn't count has not talked to one of the hundreds of businesses that go bankrupt each year because of employee theft.

John Wooden, legendary basketball coach of the UCLA Bruins, who set records which undoubtedly will never be broken, said he was concerned about what the athletes did at practice but far more concerned about what they did between today's practice and tomorrow's practice. He contended that what one does off the job determines how far he or she goes on the job. He's talking about character, and he's right.

Colorado NRCS Prepared for Conservation Security Program Sign-up

The 60-day Conservation Security Program (CSP) sign-up period in Colorado began on March 28 and ends May 27. Supporting documents and files you will need to write plans and enter them into ToolKit can be found on the Web.

Click Here → www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html

to find Colorado's Conservation Record Workbook, control of land certification form, cost lists and stewardship payment data, a list of energy auditors in Colorado and surrounding states, and more CSP supporting documents.

Rangeland Health Training

NRCS employees assigned to conduct rangeland health assessments in Conservation Security Program priority watersheds during the 2005 sign-up recently underwent training on the protocols associated with rangeland health. State Range Conservationist **Herman Garcia** and Area 2 Range Specialist **Josh Saunders** led the training with assistance from Agronomists, Soil Conservationists, and Range and Resource Management Specialists from each Area.

Rangeland health is qualitative assessment designed to rate 17 individual indicators into three attributes. The presence or absence of rills, flow paths, pedestals, gullies, litter amount and movement, and function/structural groups are a sample of the indicators observed during the training sessions. Indicators are then placed into soil/site stability, hydrologic function, and biotic integrity attributes. A "preponderance of evidence" approach is then used to select the appropriate departure category from the reference site for each attribute. Training also included procedures on how to conduct pasture conditioning scoring.



Area 3 Range Management Specialists Ben Berlinger and Kim Diller assisted with the range health training for 22 of their Area's employees.



Area 2 Soil Conservationist Jerome Daugherty and District Conservationist Kristi Gay examine indicators of range health.



Area 1 Agronomist Charlie Holcomb and Range Conservationist John Murray assisted with the on-site rangeland health training of ten of their Area's employees.



Area 1 Rangeland Management Specialist Steve Jaouen, District Conservationist Alvin Jones, and Herman Garcia examine extensive root systems from juniper trees.



Area 4 District Conservationists Larry McBride and Steve Russell, Resource Conservationist Ted Lucero, Area 3 Agronomist Darol Wilson, and Area 4 Soil Conservationist Cynthia Villa, conduct an irrigated pasture condition scoring.

Public Meetings

CSP public meetings were held throughout Colorado from early-March through mid-April to provide information to potential participants about this new program that rewards farmers and ranchers for good stewardship. Of the approximately 3,000 owners/operators with land in the selected Colorado CSP watersheds, about 10%, or 300, eligible farmers and ranchers are expected to participate in 2005.

The Dove Creek Field Office held its first CSP public meeting on March 17 with about 35 people in attendance. Several minority owners and operators attended and interest was high as evidenced by the length of the Q&A session. Notification of state meetings was provided via our website, U.S. mail, newspaper notices, and local cable access stations.

my.nrcs

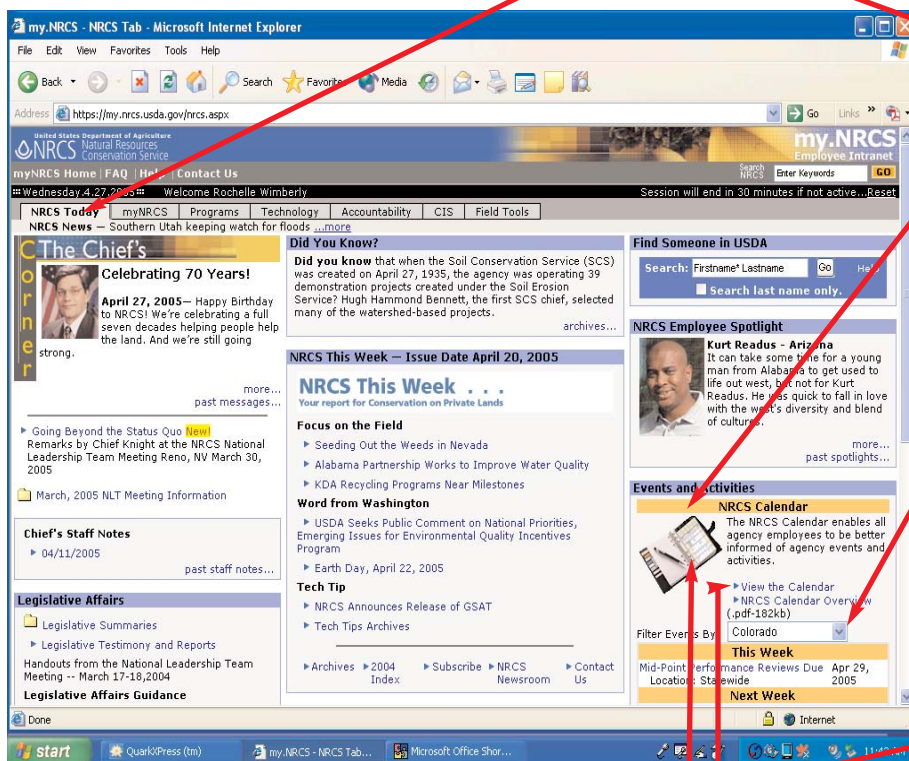
Intranet Designed to Provide One-stop Services for Employees

my.nrcs, the agency intranet for NRCS employees only, provides the most up-to-date agency news and information: One-stop services include:

- ✓ Employee Resources: ICAMS, WebTcas, NFC & Thrift Savings Plan, Agency job announcements, etc.
- ✓ Daily news feature updates and employee spotlights
- ✓ National Calendar of NRCS events and activities
- ✓ and lots more!

**New!
Colorado
Calendar**

Now Colorado NRCS employees can view (and have posted) our state's events, meetings, and calendar deadlines. To start using my.nrcs and the Colorado calendar today, **Click** on <https://my.nrcs.usda.gov>, and log on using your e-Authentication login (*this is the same user-id/password you use when you go to WebTcas to complete your timesheet*).



There are seven top menu tabs at my.nrcs. Make sure you are at the “NRCS Today” tab to view the calendar.

The NRCS calendar is located in the lower right portion of the page.

To view a listing of Colorado events for the week from the front page, select Colorado from the “Filter events by” drop down menu. The page will automatically refresh and a list of events and other significant dates will be listed under the headings “This Week,” “Next Week,” and “Coming Soon.”

To view the entire calendar and other filter options, **Click** on the calendar icon, or the text that reads “View the Calendar”

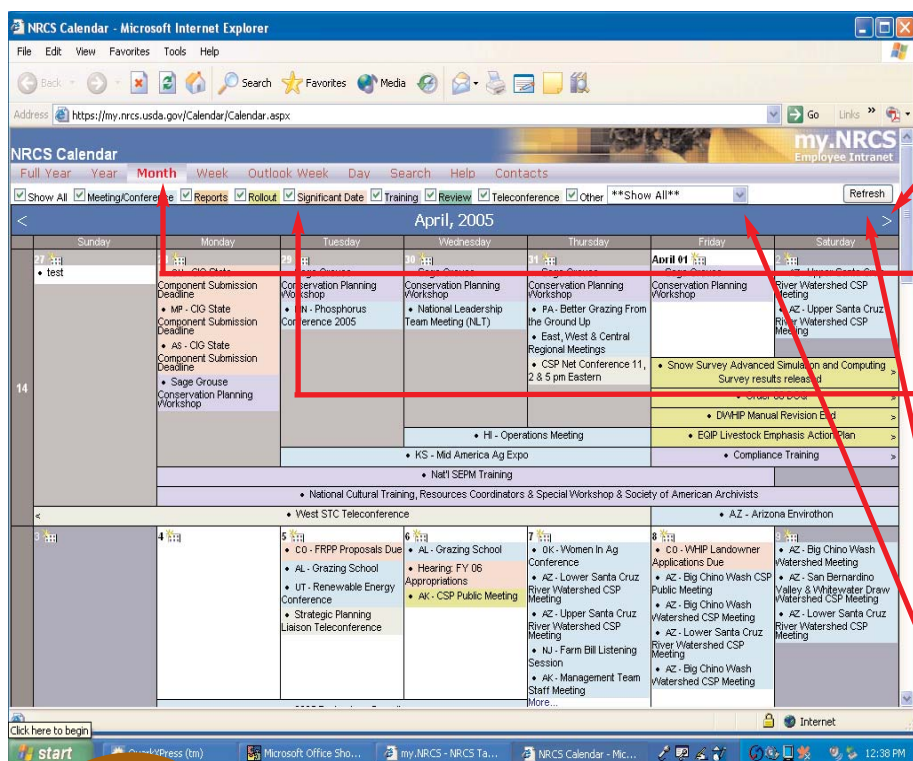
my.nrcs

At the NRCS Calendar page, you will see all the National events and activities for the current month.

Click on the arrow icon to scroll forward or backward through the months. You can also filter to show events by the year, week, day, etc.

Events/activities are color-coded for ease of distinction on the calendar face page, and can also be filtered by type, i.e., Reports, Rollout, Meetings/Conferences, Training, etc. Simply unselect the types of events you don't want to see and **Click** "Refresh."

To filter the calendar to see only Colorado's events/activities, select States from the "show all" drop down and then select Colorado. **Click** "Refresh"



Print these two pages (4-5) and post near your computer

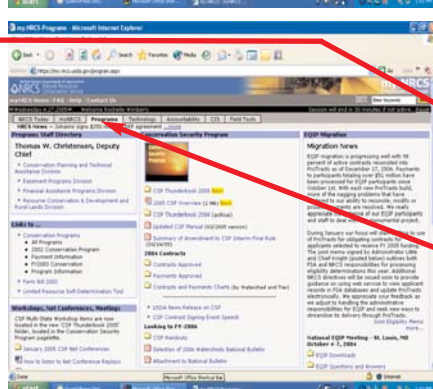
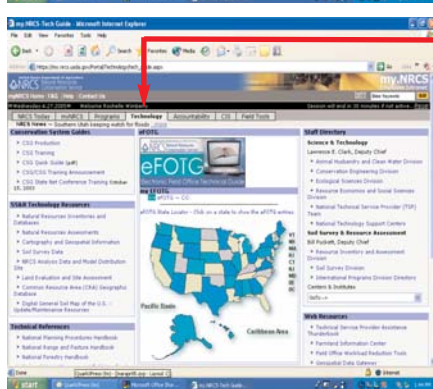
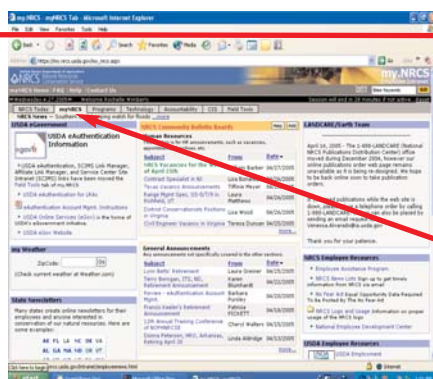
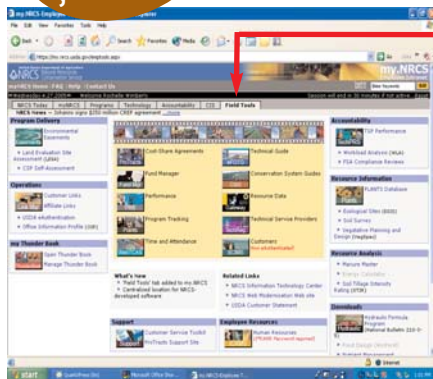
more one-stop services for NRCS employees on my.nrcs

Click on the "Field Tools" top menu tab to complete your time sheet (WebTcas); to create/edit a career plan, request training, etc. (ICAMS), and more!

Click on the "my.NRCS" top menu tab to view the community bulletin board of jobs and general announcements; to access your TSP account; to get a local weather forecast, and more!

Click on the "Technology" top menu tab to access eFOTG, and more!

Click on the "Programs" top menu tab for program info including meetings and conferences, delivery tools, briefing materials, AND MORE!



Visit my.nrcs today at <https://my.nrcs.usda.gov>

National Volunteer Week & Earth Day Activities



Go to www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/news and Click on Colorado News Releases to read more about this event



State Conservationist Allen Green, along with Governor Bill Owens, and Commissioner of Agriculture Don Ament, congratulate the 2005 Earth Day Elementary School of the Year -- Denver Public School's Carson Elementary -- at an awards ceremony.



District Conservationist Levi Montoya (above), Soil Conservationist Haydee Thillet (below) and Soil Con Tech Dennis Lane, Trinidad Field Office, provided hands-on conservation education to 3rd through 12th graders at the Hoehne School.



Soil Conservation Technician Ron Gilbertson, Center Field Office, instructs Center Middle School 6th graders in the planting of 1,500 Rocky Mountain Juniper and Ponderosa Pine seedlings at a Living Snow Fence along Colorado Hwy 17 in Area 4. In the past eight years, 100-120 student and teacher volunteers from three Saguache County schools have planted over 12,000 trees with an 85-90 percent survival rate. The 10-year goal is to complete 8 miles and 15,000 trees. Private landowners have donated the land for this snow fence, the Colorado Department of Transportation has furnished the trees, and the Colorado State Forest Service has donated the shades.



State Public Affairs Officer Petra Barnes lauds students and teachers at Carson Elementary for being named 2005 Earth Day Elementary School of the Year.



Twelve student volunteers from the Hi-Plains Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter perform maintenance planting at the John Berst Memorial Living Snow Fence along I-70 in Area 2. District Conservationist, Kristi Gay, Flagler Conservation District, led the effort on this project that was established on Earth Day 2001.



Earth Day Activities

Throughout Colorado

Conservation Contest

The Colorado USDA Earth Day Coalition sponsored a contest for all elementary schools in Denver Public Schools district to recognize schools that have incorporated natural resources and environmental issues into their curriculum. An awards ceremony was held at the 2005 Earth Day Elementary School of the Year and attended by Governor Bill Owens, the Commissioner of Agriculture Don Ament, and State Conservationist Allen Green.

Coloring Contest

The Colorado Earth Team sponsored a statewide coloring contest for grades K-5.

Groundwater Flow Model Demonstrations

NRCS Metro Field Office and Jefferson Conservation District, in cooperation with the Jefferson County Storm Water Coordinator, participated in the Earth Day 2005 Community Environmental Fair in Evergreen.

Bioengineering Workshop

The Gunnison Field Office sponsored 2 one-day workshops on Ohio Creek as an introduction into riparian ecology, riparian vegetation, and stream dynamics.

Water Trailer Demonstration

The Glenwood Springs Field Office hosted demonstrations to five classes at Glenwood Springs Elementary School.

Conservation Education

The Trinidad Field Office participated in Earth Day activities at Hoehne School in conjunction with the Spanish Peaks/Purgatoire River Conservation District and the U.S. Army.

Water Festival

The Wray Field Office participated in the Northeast Colorado Youth Water Festival at Wray High School.

8th Annual Living Snow Planting

The Center Field Office and Center Conservation District planted 1,500 Rocky Mountain Junipers and Ponderosa Pines along Colorado Hwy 17.

John Berst Memorial Living Snow Fence

The Flagler Conservation District office hosted a tree planting at this memorial snow fence along west bound I-70, just east of the town of Seibert. Berst was a Colorado State Forest Service Employee from the Fort Morgan District who later worked for the Colorado State Soil Conservation Board, and was the former state coordinator of the Living Snow Fence program.

Solar Energy Seminar

The San Luis Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council and the International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology sponsored a free seminar in Alamosa titled, "Implementing Solar Energy Projects in the San Luis Valley."



State Conservationist Allen Green presents certificates of appreciation to Colorado Earth Team volunteers Kathy Campbell, Dan Parker, and Rae Obrey.



Statewide Coloring Contest Winner, Kindergartener Logan Bristol, goes to Mitchell Elementary in Denver. She shows off her winning entry and the new bike she won for taking first place in the K-2 category.



Juwaun Davis beams while showing his winning entry and the new backpack full of goodies he took home. Juwaun was the first place 4th grader for contestants in grades 3-5 in the State Office Area.



District Conservationist Gary Campfield, Wray Field Office, along with 18 boys from Cub Scout Pack 35 and their parents perform maintenance on a Living Snow Fence off Highway 34 near Wray. The group planted 125 Rocky Mountain Junipers. The scouts, in 2nd through 5th grade, earned a Conservation Award for the volunteer work they performed to further conservation in Colorado. Way to Go!

National Volunteer Week & Earth Day Activities

on the pulse

Area Office News

Area One

The Gunnison Field Office held a Bioengineering Workshop on Ohio Creek for Earth Day, April 22 and 23. The course was designed to give trainees an introduction into riparian ecology, riparian vegetation, and stream dynamics. Participants installed various bioengineering treatments in a real stream situation. Two one-day workshops were conducted: one for adults and professionals, and one for young adults and children.

The Glenwood Springs Field Office gave water trailer demonstrations to five classes at Glenwood Springs Elementary School.

Area Two

Mike Petersen, Area 2 Agronomist, is recognized as a well-versed and knowledgeable proponent of strip-till, and has recently gone global in promoting the gains this conservation practice brings to water savings and soil quality improvement.

AgWeb.com, a comprehensive electronic community for farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness, features daily and weekly commentary from some of the most respected analysts and opinion makers in agriculture.

Quoted in a news article recently published on the website, **Petersen** was dubbed "...the Great Plains' most vocal strip-till proponent." Read it on the Web. http://www.agweb.com/pub_get_article.asp?sigcat=&pageid=116041



Petersen (left) has become known as an out-spoken proponent of strip-till.

Petersen often works closely with workshop organizers to provide up-to-date information on strip-till measures. During the early winter, he provided a presentation and training to close to 200 growers at the 2005 Farmers, Agriculture, Conservation & Technology Conference in Liberal, Kansas; to another 200 growers at the Water Pack Conference in Great Bend, Kansas; and at the High Plains No-Till Conference in Greeley.

Donna Goodsell, Area 2 Earth Team Volunteer and Administrative Coordinator, staffed an NRCS soil booth at the recent Water Conservation Fair in Greeley. The booth featured soil and water conservation education activities and information. Fair attendees were also invited to join the Earth Team and have the opportunity to play an active role in community conservation activities in the Area 2 service region.

NRCS Engineer Bernice Dyer and State Conservation Engineer **John Andrews** recently presented an overview of pump and well cost share guidance at a Pump & Well Workshop sponsored by the Y-W Well Testing Association. The Association is an alliance of the Conservation Districts in Yuma and Washington Counties and plays a vital role in helping well users in Colorado's Ogallala Aquifer conserve water and energy. The workshop participants, engineers and technical specialists, were able to handle pumps, well casings and equipment used in testing as they studied irrigation motors, pumps, well drilling, well testing, and observed a water meter demonstration.



NRCS engineers teamed up with the Y-W Well Testing Association to present the newest technology in pump and well management. Left to right, Y.W. Well Specialist Duaine Dodsworth, NRCS Engineer Debbie Rigo, NRCS Engineer Tech Travis Hertneky, Y.W. Well Specialist Devin Ridnour, NRCS Engineer Bernice Dyer, and Y-W Well Engineer Dave Keeler.

The Greeley Field Office and West Greeley Conservation District specialists participated in the judging of resource conservation projects at the 2005 Longs Peak Regional Science Fair. To learn more about the winners and judges, along with several photos, [go to Page 16](#) of this edition of the *Colorado Connection* newsletter.

Area Three

For the second year in a row, the Rocky Ford field office spent time with La Junta sixth graders discussing conservation and natural resources management during the week the students took CSAP tests. The staff used the river and riparian trailer to talk about watersheds, wetlands, water erosion, and riparian areas. The students also watched a video the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) filmed in southeastern Colorado in the late 1990s.



La Junta sixth graders watched a BBC video which explains how conservation practices put on the ground by farmers and ranchers has helped protect the land from another Dust Bowl.

In mid-March, Area 3 hosted a Basic Hydraulics Training Course in Canon City. The course is designed to provide new technicians with the basic engineering skills to develop hydraulic solutions for conservation needs. Instructors for the course include NRCS employees **Duc Phung**, **Nick Koch**, **Howard Clyma**, **Rod Clark**, **Dan Moreno**, **Walt Bland**, **Robert Gallegos**, **Gabe Lucero**, **Ryan Altenburg**, and **Jim Phene**.



Students participating in the Basic Hydraulic Training took home long hand design calculations and software solutions for concrete and earthen irrigation ditches, waterways, gravity irrigation pipelines, gated pipelines, stock water pipelines, dam principal spillways, and culvert pipe.

In March, Fort Collins Field Office District Conservationist **Todd Boldt** and Range Conservationist **John Fusaro** lead participants of the Northern Plains SWCS Technical and Leadership Training on tours of the Bobcat Fire Area and the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch, both west of Loveland. **Boldt** and **Fusaro** described the rehab work done in the burn area, and at the ranch **Fusaro** explained the grazing management work he is doing with the ranch owners.



Todd Boldt (top) at the Bobcat Fire area and John Fusaro at the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch direct tours for participants of a leadership training.

Walt Bland, Lamar Field Office Soil Conservation Tech, has retired after 28 years with the SCS/NRCS. **Bland** started as a WAE and worked for approximately seven months before signing on as a full-time employee in April 1977.



Area Conservationist John Knapp presents Walt Bland with an NRCS service plaque.

Area Four

Mike Rich and **Cindy Crist**, both Soil Conservationists, along with Range Conservationist **Steve Meyers**, used the La Plata Conservation District's river trailer to teach the concepts of river hydrology and water quality at the

Children's Water Festival at the Montezuma County Fairgrounds. Fifth graders from area schools attended fifteen minute interactive presentations on many water related issues pertinent to southwest Colorado.

The Cortez and Dove Creek Field Offices, The Dolores and Mancos Conservation Districts, Colorado State Forest Service, and Cortez Rural Development shared a booth at the Four States Agricultural Exposition in early March where they disseminated program information. **Tim Ouellette**, District Conservationist, and **Bob Fuller**, Wildlife Biologist, were invited to provide a 45-minute presentation on pasture management to about 20 producers.



Approximately 7,400 producers from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona attended the Ag Expo.

Cortez Field Office employees **Steve Myers**, Range Conservationist, and **Cindy Crist**, Soil Conservationist, gave a ground and surface water demonstration to 1st through 5th graders at the Dolores Elementary School "Science Odyssey." A ground water model and the river trailer were used to show the interaction between ground and surface water and the effects of land use on water quality and river dynamics.



Congratulations Krista Neil, Durango Field Office. She's earned a degree in Agricultural Business. She's shown here with District Conservationist **Dan Lynn** and Soil Con Tech **Bob Clark**.

on the pulse

State Office News

Tom Weber, State Office

Soil Scientist, is serving on the National Strategic Planning Core Team on an extended detail at NHQ that will last through the end of the fiscal year. He travels to Washington D.C. for two to three weeks at a time to work on specific assignments. His scope of work includes conducting research and analyses, obtaining feedback from a wide range of internal and external stakeholders, producing reports and other documents, and developing options for consideration for the agency leadership.



Soil Scientist Tom Weber returns to Colorado between his assignments with the National Strategic Planning Core Team.

The team's role is to develop and implement a project plan to produce NRCS's Strategic Plan by September 30, 2005. This new Strategic Plan will contain a statement of goals and strategies to guide the agency for the next 6 - 10 years and will help set the tone for the next Farm Bill discussions.

Allen Green, State

Conservationist, recognized **Dan Parker, Rae Obrey, and Kathy Campbell** for their significant contributions to the Colorado Earth Team and their continued commitment to the agency at a Volunteer Appreciation Reception for Earth Day.

Green presented volunteers

with a certificate of appreciation and a bag of goodies. To see pictures of this event, [Go to Page 7](#) of this edition of *Colorado Connection*.



Harry Smith, Civil Engineer, (pictured) was recently honored with a 40-year Service Award. Also receiving service awards were: **Katherine Burse-Johnson**, 10-year; **Christine Campbell**, 10-year; **Patti Phillips-Keller**, 15-year; **Olivia Romero**, 25-year; **Marsha Sims**, 15-year; and **David Wolff**, 20-year.



Christine Campbell, former Secretary to Colorado's State Admin. Officer, has accepted a position at NHQ as the Executive Assistant to the Regional Assistant Chief (East). **Campbell**, who often served as planner for many of Colorado's meetings and events, made quite an impression on national agency leaders when they visited Colorado for a leadership review in November. Soon after, she was asked to serve a two-week detail at NHQ and was offered her new position shortly thereafter. Congrats Christine! We'll miss you.

Leadership Notes

This installment of Leadership Notes is taken from the book, *Developing the Leader Within You* by John C. Maxwell.

- ✓ Being able to communicate effectively is essential for a leader.
- ✓ Real leaders know the difference between being the boss and being the leader.
 - ✓ The boss drives his workers; the leader coaches them.
 - ✓ The boss depends on authority; the leader on goodwill.
 - ✓ The boss says I; the leader says we.
 - ✓ The boss fixes the blame for the breakdown; the leader fixes the breakdown.
- ✓ People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.
- ✓ Leadership begins with the heart, not the head.
- ✓ You can love people without leading them, but you cannot lead people without loving them.
- ✓ A true leader can be recognized by the consistent superior performance of his people.
- ✓ A leader is great, not because of his or her power, but because of his or her ability to empower others.

Colorado NRCS Mentoring Program

By Rochelle Wimberly, Visual Information Specialist/Webmaster

New

Colorado NRCS will introduce its new mentoring program beginning June 1. The program is designed to provide assistance and guidance to new employees and student trainees as they explore options and plan strategies toward their career growth at NRCS.

"This initiative is a proactive approach to investing in the future of NRCS -- the employees who work directly with customers to implement programs and provide technical assistance for private lands conservation, as well as the many employees who provide the administrative support that keeps the agency operating efficiently," says State Conservationist **Allen Green**.

With direction from the State Conservationist, the Colorado Civil Rights Committee (CCRC) has been instrumental in the planning, policy development,

and implementation of the program. They have developed fact sheets and information packets to introduce the program to NRCS employees, and worked closely with the human resources department which will be responsible for the administration of the program.

"The CCRC provided an in-depth program overview at the last state leadership team meeting, and submitted a plan for a mentoring program aimed at providing employees yet another tool to assist in career planning," said **Green**. *"I am convinced that this program is good for Colorado and am committed to seeing its successful inclusion into a well-rounded employee development program in our state."*

More information about the mentoring program will be made available to employees in the weeks to come.

Tips on What to Look for in a Mentor

When Colorado NRCS's Mentoring Program rolls out in June, participants will have the opportunity to select a mentor of their choice. The following tips are helpful when selecting a mentor:

- ✦ The most important consideration is someone you can respect. If you know of someone who has accomplished things that you admire and want to achieve yourself, ask that person for guidance. The person should also be someone you can trust to discuss sensitive career issues confidentially.
- ✦ If your goal is to advance, seek someone about 1-2 grade levels above yourself. If you seek a mentor who is much more senior, the path to advancement may have changed since that person was at your level.
- ✦ Look for someone who is patient and has the time to go over your goals and work with you on a career development plan.
- ✦ Look for a person who will support your needs and aspirations, who will encourage you to accept challenges and overcome difficulties, and who will motivate and inspire you.

Accolades for the Centennial State

Colorado NRCS has been recognized by the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) for its publication, *Landowning...Colorado Style*, in the 2004 NAGC Blue Pencil Awards competition. The award will be presented at a special banquet during NAGC's Communication School 2005 in Austin, Texas. State Public Affairs Specialist **Petra Barnes** will be on hand to accept the award.

NAGC is a national not-for-profit professional network of federal, state and local government employees who disseminate information within and outside government. Its members are editors, writers, graphic artists, video professionals, broadcasters, photographers, information specialists and agency spokespersons.

The Communications School is the only event of its kind and includes presentations of the Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Awards, recognizing excellence in written, filmed, audio/videotaped, published and photographed government information products.



Seven-year Ute Mountain Soil Survey Completed

Submitted by **Doug Ramsey**, Area 4 Soil Scientist/Project Leader

Some 1,500 years ago when the first farmers ventured onto the high eolian covered mesas of southwest Colorado building pithouses and clearing the land to plant crops, the survival of these families and their future was closely tied to the soil resources. Just as it was in that early time, the current residents of the Ute Mountain area are also dependent upon the soils to provide for their families. Today, the soils of this area are still being grazed and farmed to produce corn, wheat, and alfalfa for the benefit of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe. The difference today is that the farmers and managers of this vast area have a tool that will help them to understand and protect this fragile and important resource. The recently completed Ute Mountain Soil Survey provides guidance and information about the soils of this area.

Completed after only 7 years of field work, this modern report and its digital soils maps have been an important tool that has been shared with and used by the Ute Mountain Tribe and the managers of the



Over the years, with knowledge of the soils and modern technology, the Ute Mountain Farm has produced high yields of top quality wheat, corn and alfalfa.

7,500 acre Ute Mountain Farm on a progressive basis.

Since before the first irrigation water was applied to the newly developed farm, NRCS Soil Scientists were working to describe and identify the properties and limitations of the soils on this former rangeland. First in aerial photos and later in digital formats, this information is used by farm managers to help determine irrigation rates, tillage limitations, and proper management for soils within farm fields. In 2003, one full pivot produced the highest yield of no-till corn in Colorado and the second highest yield in the nation. High yields and protection of the soil resource have always been a priority for managers as they develop an efficient and productive agricultural operation in this high desert landscape.

The knowledge of the soil resources of the Ute Mountain survey is also important to help protect this area for future generations. With the recent drought, an increased risk of soil erosion has occurred. Over the last year, an intense range condition inventory has been undertaken by NRCS in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This detailed vegetative survey, based on the soil map units and correlated range sites, will produce a detailed map of the current range conditions and productivity, allowing land managers to properly determine livestock grazing rates,



The Ute Mountain Soil Survey covers more than 550,000 acres of high mesas, mountains, and deserts in Southwest Colorado and Northeast New Mexico.

needed improvements, and to protect resources.

With the progressively digitized soils data, the soils information was available to managers and decision makers of the Ute Mountain Tribe long before the final product was completed. With the many wildfires of the last few summers, having the soils information available immediately and in a digital format has allowed for the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Teams to use the data as a key piece of information in determining what is needed to protect life and property in the first days after the fires are out. Based on NRCS soils data, runoff, erosion, and seeding rates can all be accurately calculated and proper treatments designed to help protect the watersheds and soils.

Using progressive data development and correlation, along with compiling digitizing of the soils maps, NRCS soil survey information is available shortly after the field work is completed. Providing accurate and timely soils information to our partners and customers is a key product of the modern NRCS Soil Survey Program.

Local Leadership Boosts Colorado Agricultural Growth

By Jeanette Colville, Area 2 Public Affairs Specialist

Colorado's Conservation Districts provide grassroots leadership in the education and implementation of natural resource conservation programs to ensure the growth and prosperity of Colorado's great agricultural heritage.

"The success of the Colorado Conservation Districts is sustained through our partnerships with local landowners and state and federal agencies," said **Bob Zebroski**, former director of the State Conservation Board, at a recent training workshop held in Sterling.



A follow-up CACD workshop was held at the Adams County Fairgrounds to welcome and offer orientation training to new Conservation District Managers and Board Members.

Colorado currently has seventy-seven Conservation Districts.

"Our annual workshops give us a chance to welcome our new Conservation District Board

members and managers," said **Zebroski**, *"and a chance to review our mission and goals with all of our members."*

The recent workshop in Sterling welcomed new board members **Hazen Schlachter** from the Haxtun Conservation District, **Kelly Kinnie** from the Sedgwick County Conservation District, and **Denise Swanson**, Haxtun Conservation District Manager. Also attending was Haxtun Conservation District Board President **Brian Starkebaum** who recently completed the CACD Leadership Program. State Board President **Verly Eschen**, Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Vice President **Larry Hoozee**, and Logan County Commissioner **Jack McClavey** participated in the workshop and gave updates on local and state conservation issues. NRCS RC&D Area Coordinator **Rich Mullaney** presented an overview of how the Northeast RC&D program, working with community partnerships, can benefit landowners.

Conservation Districts trace their history to the post-Dust Bowl days. Today, 70 years later,



Bob Zebroski, former CSCB Director, and CSCB Administrator Janette Terry welcome the State Conservation Board and local District members to the annual northeast Colorado training workshop in Sterling.

America's Conservation Districts continue to play a vital role in cooperating with landowners and state and federal agencies in making conservation programs a success.



Conservation District Board Members Hazen Schlachter (left) and Brian Starkebaum congratulate Haxtun Conservation District Manager Denise Swanson on her workshop presentation of the roles and responsibilities of a District Manager.



The PLWB program is a joint effort between NRCS, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and the Colorado Watershed Network.

Raquel Wertsbaugh (pictured) has been named the new private land wildlife biologist (PLWB) in the Upper Arkansas Watershed. As a PLWB, her primary responsibility is to provide technical and program support for Farm Bill programs such as WHIP, WRP, and EQIP. She will also ensure that biological considerations are addressed in conservation planning.

Originally from Loveland, Wertsbaugh grew up hunting and fishing which influenced her interest in wildlife conservation. She earned a B.S. in wildlife biology, with a minor in rangeland ecology, from Colorado State University last May. She worked as a wildlife technician for the Colorado Division of Wildlife for several years on a variety of projects including wildlife research.

Her work area includes Pueblo, Las Animas, Otero, Crowley, Fremont, Custer, Huerfano, and Chaffee counties. She will work out of the Pueblo NRCS field office and can be contacted at 719.543.8386 or raquel.wertsbaugh@co.usda.gov.

Small Acreages..... NOT TOO SMALL TO CONSERVE

Submitted by: Margaret Gigante
Area 3 Soil Conservationist



There is an increasing trend toward small acreage (less than 40 acres) land ownership in Las Animas County. With this increasing trend comes concern about the impacts of land management practices on the natural resources in and around these properties. Small acreage sites are not too small to conserve.

Proper management of natural resources can benefit not only the property itself but also neighboring properties for miles around. Whatever the intended use of the property (livestock production, crop production, wildlife habitat, etc.) there are a number of natural resources concerns that need to be considered.

Natural resources include soil, water, air, plants and animals. The following are a few of the specific questions that should be asked for each natural resource:

Soil

- ✓ Is soil being eroded by water or wind?
- ✓ What condition is the soil in?

- ✓ Is the soil fertile?
- ✓ Are there any unwanted substances present?

Water

- ✓ How much water is available and what can it be used for?
- ✓ Is the water clean?
- ✓ Are there pollutants or contaminants present?

Air

- ✓ Is the air clean?
- ✓ Is there any kind of pollution present?

Plants

- ✓ Is the vegetation suitable and adapted for growth in this climate?
- ✓ How is vegetation impacted by management decisions (i.e. a decision to graze 10 horses for the entire year)?
- ✓ Are there noxious weeds present or other invasive plant species present that do not belong and will compete with native vegetation?

Animals

- ✓ Is there adequate habitat (food, water, shelter, and space) for wildlife and domestic animals on the property?

Along with these concerns, there are also other issues that small acreage owners may encounter, especially if they are new to rural living or new to the west. These include living with wildlife, fencing laws, water laws, weed laws, mineral rights, and zoning regulations.

A helpful publication for new small acreage landowners, *Landowning...Colorado Style*, can be downloaded from the Colorado NRCS website. This guide offers information about the natural and manmade laws of the Colorado countryside, as well as many recommended practices, tips, and tools that will help facilitate a smooth adjustment to land stewardship. Go to www.co.nrcs.usda.gov and **Click on "News"** from the top menu to download the publication.

Quotable Quote

"You must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself."

Sam Levenson

Three Cheers for Earth Team Volunteers

By Jeanette Colville
Area 2 Public Affairs Specialist



NRCS recognizes the Yuma County Conservation District for outstanding Earth Team Volunteer service. Left to right, NRCS Area 2 Conservationist (Acting) Tim Carney, Yuma County Conservation District Manager Barbara Clayburg, and Yuma County Conservation Board members Sue Jarrett, Chester Zwirn, and Raymond Peters.

Volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to conserving the natural resources and agricultural heritage of northeastern Colorado were recently recognized for their outstanding commitment to community service at a meeting of the Republican River Watershed Association in Wray, Colorado. The USDA NRCS National Earth Team Volunteer Program spotlighted the achievements of **Gary Campfield**, Wray Field Office District Conservationist, for his support and execution of the Earth Team Volunteer program, and the Yuma County Conservation District for its outstanding support of the local NRCS Field Office conservation programs, the new Northeast Colorado Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, the Y-W Well Testing Association, and local, state, and national environmental and resource assessment organizations and partnerships.

Recognition of the Yuma County Conservation District includes the planning and coordination of a tree workshop and windbreak installation program; wildlife habitat plantings for the local Pheasants Forever, a student "Trees for 5th Graders" education program; and coordination of the Northeast Colorado Youth Water Fest which hosts more than five hundred fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from Colorado and Nebraska. The District sponsors local youth attendance at the Camp Rocky School, and is a partner in the FFA annual Range Field Day. In addition to providing workshops on drought management, the Yuma County Conservation District promotes a soil quality improvement and stewardship outreach program throughout area churches and schools.

The District's locally led conservation and natural resources assessment pro-

gram includes participation in the Colorado-Kansas-Nebraska Republican River Riparian Project; the City of Wray Flood Control Project; the Republican River Watershed Association; and work with numerous watershed partners including the Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Pheasants Forever, and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

The Yuma County Conservation District and NRCS recognize the vital role played by volunteers in the Y-W Well Testing Association hosted by the Conservation District in the Wray Field Office, and the important role they play in providing clerical, accounting, and technical assistance, working with producers on irrigation well testing, irrigation water management, and irrigation systems.

Campfield is recognized for his skill in identifying the resource needs in the Wray Field Office area and inspiring volunteers to willingly undertake the efforts needed to address these needs.

"Gary Campfield is an example of an NRCS employee making all of these things work together smoothly and effectively for natural resource conservation," said NRCS Area 2 Conservationist **Roy Hall**.



Science Fair Recognizes Excellence in Conservation Studies

By **Jeanette Colville**
Area 2 Public Affairs Specialist

The 2005 Longs Peak Regional Science Fair, sponsored by the Colorado Soil & Water Conservation Society, was held recently at the University of Northern Colorado.

"The Science Fair recognizes and rewards young students from northeastern Colorado who are pursuing studies in engineering, botany, chemistry, biology, and earth science," said NRCS Soil Conservation Technician **Shana Harness**. *"Regional winners then go on to compete in the finals at the State Science Fair in April."*

NRCS Greeley Field Office and West Greeley Conservation District specialists participated in the final judging on projects related to resource conservation. The Conservation District presented their annual "Outstanding Conservation Science Fair Award," this year going to **Emily Jones** who was also first place winner in the Junior Division for her poster and field model drip irrigation systems project, "Water Wasters."

Second place winner in the Junior Division was **Danielle Burke** for her project on the impact of catastrophic forest fire on erosion, "To Burn or Not to Burn." First place in the Senior Division was **Corey Swanson** for his presentation, "Toxicity and Movement of Pollutants in Underground Water."

"The annual Longs Peak Science Fair is a great incentive for kids to pursue science studies and careers in scientific fields," said **Harness**. *"We really enjoy being able to participate as judges - it's inspiring for us to see how hard the students work on their projects."*



West Greeley Conservation District Conservation Technician Susan Schreiber presents Science Fair awards to First Place Junior Division winner and West Greeley Outstanding Conservation Science Fair Award winner, Emily Jones; to First Place Senior Division Science Fair winner, Corey Swanson; and to Second Place Junior Division winner, Danielle Burke.

DC to Guest Host Local Radio Show

Area 3 District Conservationist **Rick Romano** has agreed to serve as an occasional guest host for the KRLN 1400 Yard & Garden Radio Program this year. Entering its 5th season, the show airs every Friday morning from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. beginning May 1 through July 22.

The radio show is hosted by **Tommy Covington**, County Director of Colorado State University's Cooperative Extension, with the support of KRLN's **Kyle Horn**. **Romano** was asked to host several shows to avoid programming interruptions because of unforeseen scheduling conflicts.

Guests from various horticulture and agriculture enterprises and organizations come on the radio show each week to discuss their specialty. Listeners are invited to call-in and ask questions.

Topics to be covered this season include: water issues in Fremont County, lawns and landscaping, xeriscaping, shade trees, fruit trees, wildlife, weed & insect pests, and vegetables.

RC&D Rallies for Tourism

The **Sangre de Cristo RC&D Council** is a recent partner with CSU Cooperative Extension to host a series of five Tourism Rallies to encourage people to work together to promote tourism in the southern part of the RC&D area. How to use marketing information, developing a regional identity, business-to-business referrals, and training of front line staff were some of the training topics. The final Rally was in Westcliffe, where participants determined the next steps in this collaborative tourism development process.



Sixty-five varieties of grass seed are planted in individual plots across 9 acres of Boulder County.

Folks sharing common goals have come together to share their expertise in facing the challenge of climate and land use issues in Colorado. The focus of this partnership? Grasses and their role in meeting the varied demands of depleted and poorly sustainable soil, limited water, rapid population growth, and long-term planning.

The Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center, Boulder County Parks & Open Space Department, the Longmont Field Office, Longmont and Boulder County Conservation Districts, the Colorado State University Boulder Extension Service, and the Arkansas and Pawnee Buttes Seed Companies pooled their resources and planted a nine-acre grass demonstration site. This site is on Boulder County land north of Denver, in the heart of Colorado's vast urban development along the Front Range. The demonstration site will let farmers, ranchers, and small acreage land owners study the characteristics of grass species planted at the site. Later on in the project, forbs and shrubs will be included to study the dynamics of both individual and mixed plantings.

"The primary audience that

Grass Demonstration Site Takes Root in Boulder County Open Space

By Jeanette Colville

Area 2 Public Affairs Specialist

we're targeting," said Soil Conservationist Don Graffis, "is a broad spectrum of land users - owners of one to 5,000 acres - with a primary focus on private landowners along the Front Range who want to establish grass both to feed animals and to protect the soil from erosion."

The USDA Plant Materials Program fosters a belief that developing new plant varieties and using them in conservation practices can lead to solutions for environmental issues including control of noxious and invasive plants, soil and water conservation, and improved wildlife habitat. Plant Materials Specialist Pat Davey selected sixty-five native and introduced plant species for the Boulder County demonstration site to provide a wide scope of study and comparison of species. Once mature growth has occurred, land users can get a close-up look at which species of grasses would best suit their individual conservation needs.

"The demonstration site will give landowners the ability to see what the plants look like," said Graffis, "how easily the grasses establish themselves, how long they last, and how the different cultivars of the same species perform side-by-side."

The secondary audience is the large number of government agency conservation specialists working to restore grass on what was once crop land or disturbed lands of the area.

"This might include areas

that have been over-grazed by livestock or wildlife," said Graffis, "such as large prairie dog populations."

Another benefit of the grass demonstration site for agency specialists is the gain of information and experience in being able to see a large number of the same species in a monoculture that will lead to better plant identification skills.

"When we're in an actual mixed grass situation, we'll be better able to identify individual species from a large group of plants," Graffis went on to say.

What are the characteristics of native plants to watch for at the new demonstration site? *"For one thing," said Graffis, "adaptation. Native grasses are adapted to the extreme change from cold to hot over a few days, or the long term drought conditions that often develop in the area. They've adapted to grazing animals and the common insects and diseases in the area. The biggest advantage is that they're here for the long haul."*



A team effort brings the project to life (above). Pictured left to right, Range Conservationist John Fusaro, Pat Davey, Boulder County Parks & Open Space Specialist Rob Alexander, and Don Graffis.

NATIONALLY SPEAKING

Johanns Lauds Voluntary Conservation on Private Lands

Agriculture Secretary **Mike Johanns** announced major conservation achievements in 2004 resulting from USDA voluntary conservation programs for private lands in remarks to the National Association of Conservation Districts.

"Investments in conservation contribute to an increased quality of life for all Americans through cleaner air, soil and water and improved wildlife habitat," said Johanns. "Through the Bush Administration's cooperative conservation efforts, landowners are working in partnership with the government to produce tangible results, conserving natural resources for this generation, our children and our grandchildren."

USDA offers a portfolio of conservation programs that give producers the technical and financial assistance they need to develop more effective conservation plans that improve the environment and help rural communities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) are in charge of USDA's conservation programs for

private land management and environmental stewardship.

Our 2004 conservation benefits and successes, along with the President's conservation budgets, support a continued cooperative conservation effort that gives farmers and ranchers the ability to become the best stewards of the land. In keeping with that vision, President Bush has proposed a strong budget for conservation efforts in fiscal year 2006, including \$3.8 billion to continue implementation of the conservation programs authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill. These funds will allow USDA, landowners and operators to build on a tremendously strong record for cooperative, voluntary conservation.

NRCS Applauds Earth Team Volunteers During National Volunteer Week

President **George W. Bush** designated April 17–23 as 2005 National Volunteer Week. On the heels of the President's proclamation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service congratulates and commends volunteers across the country who give their

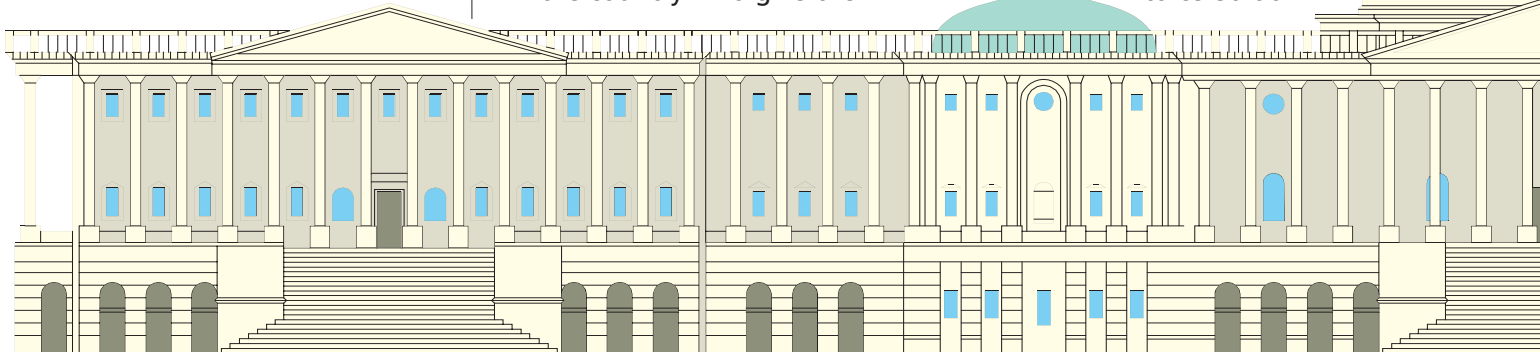
time and skill to improve, protect and conserve our natural resources. Last year more than 40,000 NRCS Earth Team volunteers contributed nearly one million hours to conservation.

The President's National Volunteer Week proclamation states: *"Our Nation's volunteers inspire us with their dedication, commitment, and efforts to build a more hopeful country for our citizens... I call upon all Americans to recognize and celebrate the important work that volunteers do everyday across our country."*

"The Earth Team is a shining contribution to President Bush's initiative to engage all Americans in volunteer service. Last year Earth Team volunteers provided nearly \$17 million in conservation services nationwide," NRCS Chief **Bruce Knight** said.

Earth Team volunteers contribute to conservation of the nation's natural resources by restoring wetlands, clearing trails, leading nature walks, staffing information booths, removing litter, planting trees along ponds and streambanks to control erosion, as well as engaging in countless other conservation activities on private lands.

In addition to celebrat-



ing volunteerism during National Volunteer Week, this year marks the 70th anniversary of NRCS and the 20th anniversary of the Earth Team.

USDA Offers Tribal and Asian Pacific Islander Scholarships

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief **Bruce Knight** today announced that the 2005 Asian Pacific Islander (API) Scholars Program and the new Tribal Scholars Program application period is April 4 through May 13, 2005.

"These scholarship opportunities strengthen the conservation partnership with state colleges and land-grant institutions and help attract outstanding students from underrepresented groups to pursue careers in agriculture and natural resource sciences," said Knight. "Workforce planning and scholarship programs help create a more effective government by providing the tools and experience these students need to perform at high levels and become quality employees."

This is the first year of the Tribal Scholars Program, which was created to help the agency accomplish its workforce diver-

sity goals and improve interaction with tribal partners and customers. Five scholarships will be awarded to U.S. citizens who are seeking a degree in agriculture or related natural resource sciences at a 1994 tribal land-grant institution. There are 34 tribal colleges and universities nationwide.

The API Scholars Program awarded five scholarships last year and will offer five in 2005. The program is open to U.S. citizens at universities with high percentages of Asian and Pacific Islander students in California, Hawaii, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Pacific Basin.

Both scholarship programs provide full tuition, employment, employee benefits, fees, books, use of a personal computer and software while on scholarship and room and board each year for up to four years. In addition to general eligibility criteria, each scholarship may have unique features due to differences in the target institutions or communities.

NRCS also participates in two USDA-sponsored scholarship programs: the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program for students planning to attend an 1890 Historically Black Land Grant Institution and major in agriculture or natural resource related studies; and the Public Service Leaders Scholarship, which is a collaborative effort between USDA, the Hispanic

Association of Colleges and Universities and the Hispanic College Fund, Inc.

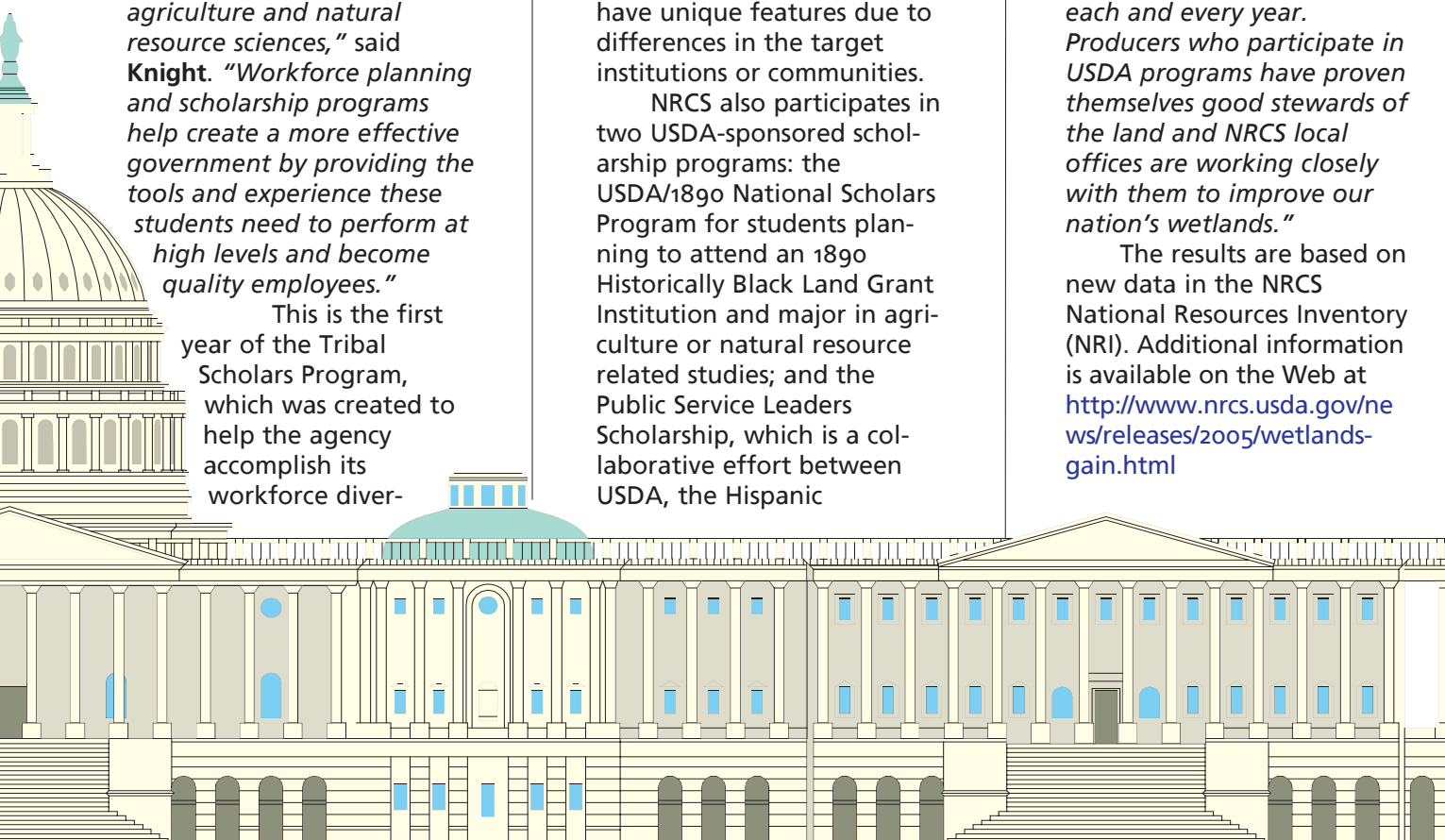
Detailed information on the Tribal and API scholars programs is on the Web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/scholarships>

NRCS Data Show Significant Gains in Agricultural Wetland Acreage

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief **Bruce Knight** has announced agricultural wetland net gains of about 263,000 acres between 1997 and 2003.

"America's farmers and ranchers are protecting and restoring wetlands at unprecedented rates," said Knight. "Between 1997 and 2003, agricultural producers across the nation achieved an average net gain of 44,000 acres of wetlands each and every year. Producers who participate in USDA programs have proven themselves good stewards of the land and NRCS local offices are working closely with them to improve our nation's wetlands."

The results are based on new data in the NRCS National Resources Inventory (NRI). Additional information is available on the Web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/releases/2005/wetlands-gain.html>



National Women's History Month



This March, America celebrated the 25th anniversary of the multicultural women's history movement. Designated by Joint Resolutions of the House and Senate and Proclamations by

five American Presidents, March has become an opportunity for the nation to recognize women as a force in history.

In 1980, President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation calling on the American people to remember the contributions of women. By 1987, fourteen governors had declared March as Women's History Month, and that same year, Congress and the President followed by declaring March as National Women's History Month.

This year's theme, "Women Change America," celebrates and honors the role of American women in transforming our culture, history, and politics. "Women Change America" also recognizes the 85th anniversary of women in the United States winning the right to vote.



Cool, Clear Water, a song made famous by Sons of the Pioneers, was the theme of the 11th Annual Arkansas River Basin Water Forum held in Trinidad in early April. The Forum has been a focal point of current water issues in the Arkansas River Basin and in Colorado since its beginning in 1995.

Area 3 District Conservationist **Levi Montoya** was a presenter at this year's Forum. **Jane Wustrow** and **Kathy Trujillo**, Sangre de Cristo RC&D, served on the planning committee.

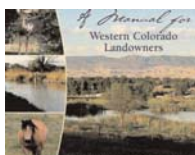
Shavano CD offers New Resource

The Shavano Conservation District, in conjunction with various organizations, has developed an educational CD for landowners, "*A Manual for Western Colorado Land Owners*."

The CD contains information on such topics as water, weeds, wildlife habitat, soils, pasture and range management, healthy forests, and fire prevention. It contains a

variety of file types including text and picture files, as well as video and audio clips. It has been designed for use on a variety of computer platforms with broad compatibility.

The CD can be purchased for \$15.00 at numerous locations. Call the Shavano Conservation District office at 970.249.8407.



Tarryall Project Earns Conservation Award

Submitted by **Mary Miller**
Area 3 Public Affairs Specialist

The Park County Advisory Board on the Environment recently presented the 2004 Conservation Achievement Award to representatives from the Tarryall Creek Restoration Project.

The Project promotes bank stabilization, reduced sedimentation and erosion, enhanced riparian habitat, and increased water quality.

Lawlor Wakem, Teller-Park Conservation District Board Vice President, started work on Tarryall Creek through a Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) contract in 1997. Work by **Wakem** and other landowners has continued and increased through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts.

The project is a collaborative effort of local, state, and federal government agencies and local landowners. Partners include the Park County Land and Water Trust Fund, Park County Commissioners, U.S. Forest Service, Teller-Park Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Centennial Water and Sanitation, Denver Water Board, the Aurora Utility Department, and Colorado Division of Wildlife.



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